

THE ל'פ"ח SHEKEL

VOLUME 1, No. 2

SUMMER 1968

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HIGHLIGHTS

Parade of Israel Specimen Sets

New Club Formations

AINA's First FORUM

Scarcity in Israel Coins

Reference Material on Ancients

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin

The Mint of King Herod the Great?

Jerusalem The Holy

First Anniv. of the Victory Coin

A Tribute to R. F. Kennedy

AINA Editorial, and many others

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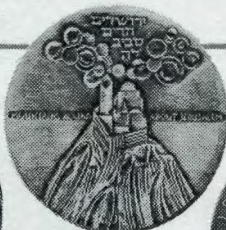
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The SHEKEL

ל'פ"ה

Volume 1 No. 2 • Summer 1968

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is with great pride that our dream, through hard work has become a reality. We are a lusty infant, at the present time having a membership of over 1500 from coast to coast, Canada, Europe and of course Israel.

It is a pleasure to welcome the newly formed Israel Numismatic Society of San Francisco and one of the most outstanding Israel Coin clubs in the country, the Israel Coin club of Los Angeles. Plans are being arranged for the formation of Israel Numismatic Societies in Canada, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and Miami.

If interested in forming an Israel Numismatic Society in your city, please let us hear from you.

You, the members are very instrumental in the success of A.I.N.A. We would like to hear your suggestions and comments.

I am very proud to state the A.I.N.A. forum which was held on April 28th was a tremendous success. My many thanks to Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel, for his kind assistance. May you have a happy, and healthy summer vacation, and may you return fully rested for a new year of numismatic activities, which may hopefully be highlighted with a convention in Jerusalem.

MORRIS BRAM, President

EDITORIAL

A.I.N.A. CONGRATULATES ISRAEL. The officers and members of A.I.N.A. extend their heartiest congratulations to the State of Israel on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, and the reunification of the City of Jerusalem.

The commemoration of this event — the striking of the Jerusalem coin, in proof, is a highlight in numismatics. Here is a coin with a brilliant proof finish on the obverse, and a matte proof finish on the reverse. The Berne (Switzerland) Mint has shown their expertise in the creation of a single coin, with both proof finishes.

We have heard only favorable comments on the schematic panorama of Jerusalem, displaying the experiment in brotherhood, as portrayed by the three holy shrines of the major monotheistic faiths.

May Jerusalem re-unified, set an example for the rest of the world in living in harmony.

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN



The 20th Anniversary and the Death of Robert F. Kennedy. This message is being written at a time of mixed feelings, a time of glad and sad tidings. But these two have often gone hand in hand. Even in the bright sunlight, a man has his shadow follow him. Israel's 20th Anniversary celebration was marred by the brutal slaying of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. A special tribute page to the late Senator appears in this issue.

Silver Crowns. On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary celebration, the State of Israel minted a special 10 pound Silver Crown, a departure from the traditional 5 pound coin. The Editorial Board of the Shekel would like to see the re-instatement of the popular 5 pound coin. It has established an honored place with the Israel numismatist. Why not have the two coins issued every year? Any comments, readers?

2nd AINA Forum. The tremendous response to THE SHEKEL, and the AINA FORUM prompted us to plan our 2nd Forum to be held sometime in March of 1969. We are contemplating Israel as the convention site. AINA members — next year in Jerusalem. More details in the next issue of THE SHEKEL.

NATHAN SOBEL, Editor

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation
presents through its State Medals

The spirit of Israel



Medal of Valour



Masada



First Settlers Medal



Tower & Stockade



Medal of Liberation



Sinai Campaign



Bar-Kochba



Jerusalem



Exodus

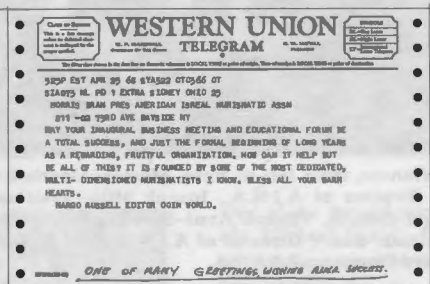
Israel State Medals

All medals are bronze and silver, struck in Israel. The diameter of the Jerusalem medal is 45mm., in both bronze and silver. The diameter of the other medals is 59-60mm. in bronze. In silver, the smaller medals measure 35mm. in diameter and the larger 60mm.



The A.I.N.A. Forum

by Nathan R. Goldman



The educational forum of the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc., was held on Sunday, April 28th, 1968 from 1-6 P.M. in the grand ballroom of the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel at Broadway and 34th Street, New York City.

The Forum consisted of lectures, motion pictures and exhibits, pertaining to Israel coinage, both ancient and modern. The Forum excited the admiration and interest of the approximately 800 persons who were present. There were many expressions of congratulations afforded to A.I.N.A. on the dignity and good taste, not only on the proceedings but on the diversified character of the exhibits. Among the exhibitors were the Israel Coins and Medals Corp. and the El Al Israel Airlines. The Israel Coins and Medals Corp., had its prize-winning exhibit showing not only the coins and medals of modern Israel, but also panoramic photos of Jerusalem and other Israeli cities. The El Al Airlines exhibit was attended by two charming El Al Airline hostesses, who contributed much beauty to the exhibit.

The exhibitors were: Vincent W. Alones, Morris Bram, Milton Dinkin, Bernard Fox, Nathan R. Goldman, Michael Granis, Solomon Handel, Edward Janis, Stanley Lechner, Jack L. Minskoff, Charles C. Morris, Frank W.

Porkaro, Nathan Sobel, Sam Shatz and Ben Spencer.

The exhibits were so outstanding, that each exhibitor received an award.

After the guests had viewed and examined the exhibits, Morris Bram, the President, called the meeting to order. He welcomed all those who had attended and then turned the proceedings over to Nathan R. Goldman, who acted as moderator for the balance of the Forum.

The first speaker was Hon. Michael Arnon, Consul-General of Israel in New York, who delivered a most interesting talk on Israel, Israel numismatics and Israel aspirations.

He was followed by Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., who came from Israel especially for this convention. He discussed the coins and medals of Israel and devoted much of his time to the Jerusalem Crown, minted to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the State of Israel. He described in detail the steps in the minting of a coin from the conception to reality. First, the occasion to be memorialized is chosen, then competitive designs are submitted for consideration, from which, one design is selected. Following the selection of the design, dies and molds are made and finally minting is com-



The Special Award Winners, from left to right, Messrs. Morris Bram—President of A.I.N.A., Edward Janis—Board Director of A.I.N.A., Joseph Milo—Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel in the U.S.A. and Canada, Yitzhak Avni—Director General of Israel Coins and Medals Corp., Nathan R. Goldman—Board Director of A.I.N.A., and Nathan Sobel—Editor-in-Chief of "The Shekel" and Board Director of A.I.N.A.

menced. This process takes about a year. In fact, work has already begun on the 21st Anniversary coin. At the conclusion of his talk, he announced that there were already about 1000 A.I.N.A. members in Israel.

The final speaker was Mr. Edward Janis, a director of A.I.N.A. and a noted numismatist. He delivered a most interesting talk on the "Origin of Designs, Symbols, and Motifs of Modern Israel Coinage". His talk was accompanied with slides. He traced the designs and symbols of modern Israeli coinage by showing their similarity and identity in the ancient Hebrew coinage.

After a very short recess, special awards were presented to those who had contributed much time and effort to make A.I.N.A. the success that it is. The citations were in the nature of plaques and were awarded to:

Michael Arnon, *Consul General of Israel*

Yitzhak Avni, *Director General of Israel Coins and Medals Corp.*

Morris Bram, *President of A.I.N.A.*

James F. Cahill, *Counsel to A.I.N.A.*

Nathan R. Goldman, *Attorney and Board Director of A.I.N.A.*

Edward Janis, *Numismatist and Board Director of A.I.N.A.*

Joseph Milo, *Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel in N. Y.*

Louis Schweiloch, *Board Director of A.I.N.A.*

Nathan Sobel, *Editor-in-Chief of "The Shekel" and Board Director of A.I.N.A.*

President Bram, in receiving his award set forth the organization of A.I.N.A., from a dream to reality, and thanked all those who helped in so many ways to make the dream come true.

Two interesting motion pictures were then shown. One, "Within the Circle" showed how the designs and symbols of modern Israel Coinage came into being, a subject that had been discussed at length by Edward Janis. The motion picture and the lecture combined to impress the designs and symbols more forcefully in the minds of the listeners and viewers. The second film, "At the Gates of Jerusalem" was made after the Six Day War. It was most interesting.

Mr. Goldman then thanked all for coming and invited all to continue viewing the exhibits and to partake of refreshments. The Forum was concluded at 6 P.M. As the people left, many words of encouragement and congratulations were received, and many showed their approval by becoming members of A.I.N.A.



Audience viewing the Special Coin exhibits, put up by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.



Mr. Yitzhak Avni presenting check to Mr. Morris Bram, on behalf of Israel A.I.N.A. members.

One of the Award winning exhibits by Mr. Michael Granis, Board Director of A.I.N.A.



View of the Grand Ballroom. The Hon. Michael Arnon, Consul General of Israel in New York delivers his speech.



Senator Robert F. Kennedy (1925-1968)

IN MEMORIAM

The officers and members of A.I.N.A., join the nation in mourning the untimely and tragic death of the young Senator Robert F. Kennedy. He was a great American, dedicated to the principles of Democracy and Justice for all men, and to Peace in the world.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, children, and the Kennedy family. The nation and the world have lost a great leader.



ROBERT F. KENNEDY
NEW YORK

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

February 29, 1968

Dear Mr. Bram:

My thanks for your letter of January 30. I just wanted you to know how much I appreciated receiving the medal which is being issued to honor Premier Levi Eshkol.

It was most thoughtful of you to send it to me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Robert F. Kennedy

Mr. Morris Bram
President
American Israel Numismatic
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008

**A letter
we received from
the Senator
a short while ago.**

Scarcities and Sleepers In Israeli Coins

by Sylvia Haffner



New collectors when they start to collect a series are always advised by the experts to buy the "key" coins first. The sound reasoning behind this advice is based on the fact that the "keys" are the first to rise in price, due to their scarcity. Sometimes the scarcity is based on mintage figures alone, and in most cases based on their availability in choice condition. The mintage figures cannot be used as a guide to the relative scarcity where the "pearl mark" is concerned due to the fact that the number of dies with and without "pearl" are not available for checking. Sometimes issues with large mintages can be exceedingly scarce in uncirculated condition like the 1960 issue of the Agorot series. This first issue was placed into circulation immediately after the change-over from the Pruta series and are scarce in choice condition.

The tables set forth here are based on availability in today's market in brilliant uncirculated condition.

PRUTA SERIES

Rating	Date	Denomination	Mintage
1	1948	25 Mils	42,650
2	1954	100 Pruta Utrecht die	20,000
3	1954	50 Pruta—cn. Reeded edge	250,000
4	1949	50 Pruta—w/p (with "pearl")	—
5	1949	25 Pruta—w/o/p (without "pearl")	—
6	1949	1 Pruta—w/o/p	—
7	1949	25 Mils	650,000
8	1949	10 Prutot—w/p	—
9	1949	5 Prutot—w/o/p	—
10	1949	250 Pruta—w/p	—

AGOROT SERIES

Rating	Date	Denomination	Mintage
1	1960	1 Agora— Large Date	Est.—250
2	1964	5 Agorot	21,451
3	1964	10 Agorot— Small Date	Est.—36,000
4	1960	1 Agora— Different Die	—
5	1961	1 Agora— Wide Date	—
6	1962	10 Agorot— Small Date	Est.—88,000
7	1961	5 Agorot— I.C.I. Mint	5,000,000
8	1962	5 Agorot— Small Date	Est.—112,000
9	1962	1 Agora— Small Date	Est.—145,000
10	1960	1 Agora	12,768,000

The coins of the Palestine Mandate Series are tabulated here by availability — with condition not a factor, for all coins of this series are extremely difficult to obtain in uncirculated condition. It is almost impossible to put this set together in choice condition, the collector usually strives to obtain the coins in the best condition available in circulated condition with a scattering of unc's where possible.



Obverse



Reverse

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS

Rating	Date	Denomination	Mintage
1	1941	20 Mils	100,000
2	1934	20 Mils	125,000
3	1934	100 Mils	200,000
4	1940	20 Mils	200,000
5	1931	100 Mils	250,000
6	1933	20 Mils	250,000
7	1934	50 Mils	398,861
8	1940	1 Mil	396,000
9	1941	5 Mils	400,000
10	1941	10 Mils	400,000

"Sleepers for the Investor"

New collectors are advised by the "experts" to always pick up several of each type they collect for investment purposes. Those collectors who did just this — found the coins of Israel to be a profitable investment. The past few years has seen the market in Israeli coins climb steadily and with the new influx of collectors the investing in Israeli coins can be most lucrative. There are still many "sleepers" in the coins of Israel that will bear watching in the next year and should make good investments.

Palestine Mandate Coins

The 1931 100 Mils is selling for about \$30.00 in Israel, with a mintage of 250,000 — whereas the 1934 100 Mils with a mintage of 200,000 is selling for about \$12.50! There is no doubt that the 1934 issue will eventually command a higher price than the 1931 issue and yet today can be purchased for less than half.



Obverse



Reverse



Obverse



Reverse

The 20 Mils are all scarce and any one of the dates will be a good investment for the future.

Mil-Pruta Series

The 1948 25 Mils is scarce in any condition and now that they have been found with several different degrees of rotated dies makes them more sought after than ever before. With a mintage of 42,650, only this number of complete sets can be assembled and as more collectors come into the field of Israeli numismatics this will be one of the major "keys". This coin is an excellent investment even at today's market value of \$30.00 in circulated condition.

The 1954 100 Pruta-Utrecht die — commands more respect than its sister coin from the Berne Mint, but the Berne strike with an estimated mintage-release (they were withdrawn and melted) of 90,000 is becoming quite scarce in Israel. This coin has been selling for around \$3.00 in uncirculated condition as against the Utrecht die issue at \$150.00 with an estimated release of 20,000. The Berne die issue promises to be an excellent investment for the future.

The 1949 250 Pruta-silver coin, struck at the Heaton mint, with a mintage of 44,125 has been selling for about half of the selling price of the 1949 500 Pruta with a mintage of 33,812. With all things being equal — considering that both issues were placed in the presentation sets by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., Ltd. the selling price will even-

tually climb to a more realistic figure of three-quarters of the 500 Pruta. Both issues are on the rise in Israel as they are becoming quite scarce.

Agora Series

The main "sleeper" in this series is the 1963 25 agorot with a mintage of 194,000. Although the 1965 issue has a mintage of 186,544 — there were issued 150,000 proof-like sets which all contain an uncirculated specimen. The 1963 issue of proof-like sets had only a mintage of 8,000! This indicates that only 8,000 of the 1963 25 agorot are established as "uncirculated", with the balance thrown into circulation. With a market-value today of around \$4.00 this should be one of the best investments of the Agora series.

The 1964 10 Agorot — Small Date in uncirculated condition is extremely rare, it is offered quite reasonably in circulated condition but never in "unc". Investing in this coin in "unc" condition is bound to be a lucrative investment as the demand increases for choice coins.

Commemorative Issue

The 1962 Half-Shekel, regular issue with a mintage of 20,000 — as compared to the 1961 issue with a mintage of also 20,000 has been selling for one-



Obverse



Reverse

third the price! Considering that most advanced Israeli collectors assemble their commemorative sets with both issues — regular and proof, it is reasonable to assume that coins with identical mintages should sell for the same price. It is unreasonable to presume that the 1961 issue will come down in price, so therefore eventually



the 1962 issue must come up! This should be one of the best investment coins of Israel. The same holds true with the proof issue, if the 1962 strike is half of the mintage of the 1961 strike it should command half of the selling price, which it does not and will eventually just as water seeks its own level.

The 1960 One Pound "Degania" in proof has a mintage of 5,000 — but if you will check all of the other One Pounds with a mintage of around 5,000 pieces, (Menora, 1962-Lamp 6,100, 1961-1/2 Shekel) you will find it running behind in price. This is due largely to the mintage of 100,000 in the regular issue, but one must keep in mind the availability of the proof issue regardless of the regular issue. It should be a winner in the future.

The 1961 One Pound "Heroism" in the regular issue has a mintage of 20,000, compare it with the 1960 Henrietta Szold issue with a mintage of 17,000! "Heroism" sells for almost one-fifth the price of the "Szold" regular issue, we cannot expect the "Szold" piece to come down so therefore the "Heroism" has to go up as the process of supply and demand takes over. It will undoubtedly be an exceptional choice for investors.

The proof strikes of the Five-Pound commemoratives will also begin to level off as more collectors begin to collect both strikes. Here is a table to show the mintages of the proof strikes and their estimated market-value today. You will note the wide-span amongst the market-value, we again can only presume that the high-priced

Continued on page 20

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin

by Jeremy U. Newman, P.E.



The standardization of coins, weights and measures has occupied savants, scientists, judges, monarchs and administrators from the dawn of history until today. The length of a ruler's pace, of a platinum-iridium bar, or of a light wave have all figured in obtaining standard measurements.

And yet, in spite of the efforts to obtain absolute values, the search has been as fruitless as the attempt to obtain absolute zero. For instance, within the first score of years, the Israeli Pound has been devalued to one-tenth of its initial value (in terms of U.S. dollars). In fact, the remnants of the Turkish and British coinages have been cast aside, and a new, devalued, decimal currency has been adopted. Numismatists in future centuries will spend sleepless nights piecing together the puzzle of early 20th Century Israeli currency.

Any attempt today to establish absolute values for such ancient coins as the *shekel* is likewise doomed to failure. Of course, the value of a *shekel* at a particular time in history may be ascertained with some certainty, but the *shekel* has varied from the Biblical silver measure weighing about 1.2 U.S. half dollars (that is, when we had silver half dollars) to the devalued Talmudical coin of about 1.1 U.S. quarters. Wide variations in value always occurred. During the siege of Samaria by Ben-hadad, King of Aram, the *shekel* became devalued, and the prophet Elisha was scorned when he prophesied, (II, Kings 7:1) "Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a *shekel*, and two measures of barley

for a *shekel*, in the gate of Samaria." Food was so scarce that the King's captain mocked, "Behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, might this thing be." But the very next day the siege was lifted, and the *shekel* restored to its uninflated value as Elisha had predicted.

In the light of such information, any attempt to be scientific in assigning values to ancient Jewish coins, weights and measures is a hazardous procedure. And yet, the author of this article long felt a need for a chart of common ancient Jewish coins, weights and measures to aid the student and scholar in ascertaining certain basic information in the field. For instance, there is little argument over such data as the following: the ancient Biblical silver coins were part of a decimal system, i.e. *gerah* (1), *beka* (10), *shekel* (20) and *Maneh* (1000); and the *beka* was a trifle larger than the U.S. silver quarter (which is rapidly becoming a collector's item). Although this information is accessible in *The Jewish Encyclopedia* (XII, 483-490) and in Blackman's *Mishna-yoth*, published by the Judaica Press, Inc. (I, 18-21), there has never been an easily obtainable chart containing this information, complete with line sketches to graphically illustrate the relative sizes of various coins, weights and measures, prior to the recent publication of the chart *Jewish Weights and Measures* by the author.

This chart makes no grand pretense at solving intricate technical or legal problems. It only attempts to classify known values in a graphic fashion so

Continued on page 31

...from the U.S.A.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
February 7, 1968

Mr. Morris Bram, President
American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008

Dear Mr. Bram:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 30th, relative to the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

Thank you for writing me in this connection, and for furnishing me with information on your organization. I offer my warm congratulations on the establishment of another clearing house for the exchange of ideas, and for the improvement of relations between the United States and Israel.

My best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Walter J. Michel

WALTER J. MICHEL
Governor



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 9, 1968

Mr. Morris Bram, President
American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N. Y. 10008

Dear Mr. Bram:

I appreciated receiving your letter and learning of the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

The educational opportunities offered by careful study of Israel's modern and ancient coins will go a long way toward cementing understanding and the ties of friendship between Israel and the United States.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Walter J. Michel
Walter J. Michel
Governor

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540
February 9, 1968

Mr. Morris Bram
President
American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 3194, Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008

Dear Mr. Bram:

Your letter of January 30, 1968, addressed to the Secretary of Commerce, has been referred to me for reply.

We are pleased to learn of the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association, and hope your group will be able to strengthen the bonds of understanding between the United States and Israel.

The name of your new group is being placed on our Department of Commerce mailing list of trade and professional associations to receive information of interest to your membership.

Sincerely,

46Kats
J. E. Katz
Director
Office of Marketing and Services

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002
February 7, 1968

Dear Mr. Bram:

Thank you for your letter of January 30 to Secretary Cardon concerning the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

I feel privileged to be able to acknowledge your letter to our Department and to wish you and the Association well in your endeavors. This sense of privilege is heightened by the fact that your records will show that I was one of the first members of the Association and am looking forward to receiving the first materials and the first issue of your Journal, "The Shekel."

If there is anything I might do to enhance the important work of the Association, I hope you will call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel H. Hays
Samuel Hays
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Legislation

Mr. Morris Bram
President
American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008



JOHN A. VOLPE
Governor

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

February 9, 1966

Morris Bram, President
American Israel Numismatic Association, Incorporated
Post Office Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Bram:

Particularly in view of my recent visit to Israel with a delegation of United States Governors, I was pleased to learn of the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association, and I want to congratulate you and your membership.

This will certainly be a most interesting pursuit, and one which can make many worthwhile and integral contributions toward furthering true brotherhood between our Nation and the State of Israel.

Please accept my heartfelt wishes for every measure of success in this numismatic endeavor, and my hopes for your continued good fortune and fulfillment in the promising years ahead.

Sincerely,

John A. Volpe
Governor

Parade of Israel Specimen Sets

The official proof-like specimen sets have been issued since 1963, and are being offered to the public in the month of February of each year. No sets were issued in year 1964. The sets constitute the Agora coins, which replaced the previous Pruta series. The Agoroth have been in general use in Israel since 1960. They constitute 6 coins, as follows: 1 Agora, 5 Agoroth, 10 Agoroth, 25 Agoroth, 1/2 Lira (pound), and 1 Lira (pound). For de-

tailed description of the individual coins, see "THE SHEKEL," Spring issue, No. 1, pp. 23, 24 and 46.

All these coins were minted at the Tel-Aviv Mint, except for the 1967 and 1968 sets, which were minted in Jerusalem for the first time. All subsequent mintages will be done in Jerusalem. This event marks a new era, the first minting of Hebrew coins in Jerusalem, after a cessation period of about 2,000 years. (See back cover.)



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by Mel Wacks

A Short Bibliography of Ancient Jewish Numismatics



Introduction

If you want to collect U.S. coins, you can purchase "The Red Book", a catalog containing historical information, mintage figures and average dealers' selling prices. Things are not as simple for collectors of ancient Jewish coins; no single reference contains all of the pertinent facts needed for the full appreciation and enjoyment of this phase of numismatics.

Even those books which cover the same subject matter are not in complete agreement since the "experts" still have conflicting opinions as to the meanings of the coin-symbols and inscriptions, the dating and attribution. As soon as you have read and analyzed the latest opinions, a new book or article with new theories is liable to appear!

However, because of the complexities involved, the satisfaction of accomplishment can be all the greater. It is difficult to be merely an accumulator of Jewish coins, you must be a numismatist . . . an accumulator of knowledge.

History

Full appreciation of the ancient coins can only be obtained through familiarization with the contemporary historical events. There are many excellent and inexpensive books available which deal with this period of Jewish history such as:

"A History of the Jews" by Cecil Roth, Schocken, New York

This is an all encompassing history

from biblical to modern times, written by the most famous Jewish historian of the twentieth century.

"A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus" by Emil Schurer, Schocken, New York \$2.45

Don't let the title of this one deceive you, it covers the entire period of Jewish coinage from the Maccabees to the Second Revolt. Mr. Schurer was a numismatist in addition to being an historian and there are many references to coins in his book.

"Antiquities", *"The Great Jewish War"*, and other works by Flavius Josephus, several versions in paperback.

These works are the ones which all the others are based upon. Josephus was a leader of the Jewish Revolt who later went over to the Romans. He wrote a detailed (in many cases first hand) account of the First Revolt as well as the earlier history of the Jewish people. While Josephus tended to exaggerate and modify the facts to suit his purposes, his writings are the most complete now available to us.

Comprehensive Catalogs

A. Reifenberg's *"Ancient Jewish Coins"* has been the standard reference in the field since it was first published in 1947. Almost all auction and sale catalogs list their ancient Jewish coins by "Reif." number. New editions have been issued from time to time by Rubin Mass in Jerusalem and sell in the \$4 - \$5 range.

The most recent effort, published in Hebrew in 1966 and in English in 1967,

is Ya'akov Meshorer's "Jewish Coins in the Second Temple Period". In addition to identifying 39 more coin types than Reifenberg had done, this young curator of the Archaeological Museums in Israel and member of the Board of Directors of the AINA has re-attributed many of the Maccabean issues. Published by Am Hassefer in Tel Aviv, this book sells from \$12-\$15.

The "Catalog of the Greek Coins of Palestine in the British Museum" was completed in 1914 by George Hill, then keeper of Coins and Medals at the museum. It has recently been reprinted by Arnaldo Forni of Bologna (1965).

This is an excellent reference for both the inscriptions (many variations are shown) and the Palestinian City — issues. It also contains a complete table of the eras used in dating ancient Judean coins.

It was Hill's recognition of the importance of epigraphical evidence that

led to his attribution of the controversial Shekels to the First Revolt plus many other re-attributions which were then (and most still are) "almost universally accepted by all numismatic scholars."*

British Museum Catalog (BMC) numbers are sometimes used along with or as an alternative to Reifenberg numbers. The reprint retails for \$25.

Edgar Rogers' "A Handy Guide to Jewish Coins" was published in 1914 by Spink and Son Ltd. It has never been reprinted. The Guide is an excellent little book, covering Jewish and related coinage through the Turkish claimants to Jerusalem (1910 AD). Unsurprising, since Rogers was a minister, a good discussion is included on numismatic references contained in the Bible. This book is rarely offered

Continued on page 18

*L. Kadman, "Corpus Nummorum Palaestiniensium Vol. III — The Coins of the Jewish War of 66-73", Schocken, Jerusalem, 1960, p. 47.

TABLE I. SUMMARY

	Persian Period	Maccabees	Herod I, Philip II, Antipas, Archelaus, Agrippa I, II	Herod of Chalcis, Aristobolus	Procurators	First Revolt	Judaea Capta (Palestine)	Judaea Capta (Rome)	Second Revolt	Palestinian Cities	Arabs	Crusaders	Ancient Hebrew Alphabet Forms	Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions	Rarity Indication
Meshorer	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓						✓
Reifenberg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						
BMC	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	(1)			✓	✓	
Rogers		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Madden (1881)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(2)	✓		✓		
Kadman						✓				(3)	✓			✓	✓

(1) Sepphoris-Diocaesarea, Tiberias, Caesarea, Diospolis-Lydda, Joppa, Neapolis, Nysa-Scythopolis, Sebaste, Aelia Capitolina, Anthedon, Ascalon, Eleutheropolis, Gaza, Nicopolis-Emmaus, Raphia

(2) Aelia Capitolina

(3) Aelia Capitolina, Akko-Ptolemais, Caesarea

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One of the earliest authors still highly regarded is Frederick Madden, who wrote *"History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New Testament"* in 1864 and *"Coins of the Jews"* in 1881 (second edition 1903).

In his second work Madden utilized the research done in the intervening years. Because M. de Saulcy had in 1874 published *"Numismatique de la Terre Sainte"* (Numismatics of the Holy Land), covering the towns of ancient Palestine, Madden chose not to include these coins in *"Coins of the Jews"* as he had in 1864. Unfortunately de Saulcy's book has never been translated into English.

Unlike all of the other references I have discussed, Madden used drawings (wood cuts) rather than photographs of the coins. This is an advantage in many cases since the ancient coins, particularly the bronze issues, are often unavailable in excellent condition due to poor striking, wear, corrosion, etc. and therefore are not photogenic.

Madden included detailed biblical and monetary background material as well as historical information. Original copies sell in the vicinity of \$75 but luckily two reprints have recently been produced — the 1864 work by Ktav, publishing in Jerusalem and a combination of the 1864 book with the 1881 rewrite by Pegasus, publishing in San Diego. They are priced at approximately \$12 each.

This ends my description of recommended comprehensive catalogs of ancient Judaeon coins. I continue with more specialized writing efforts.

Specialized Catalogs

It is beyond the scope of a general catalog to describe all varieties and subvarieties of the coin-types included. Therefore, a project has been initiated by the Israel Numismatic So-

ciety to publish a projected seventeen volume *"Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium."* Each volume, covering a specific period or locale, will catalog all of the coin-varieties known including explanations of the symbols and inscriptions, size and weight range, number of specimens extant, where they are presently located, literary references, etc.

The *"Corpus"* is far behind its original schedule but has produced four excellent works by Leo Kadman (for whom the numismatic museum in Jerusalem is named). They are *"The Coins of Aelia Capitolina"* (1956), *"The Coins of Caesarea Maritima"* (1957), *"The Coins of the Jewish War of 66-73"* (1960) and *"The Coins of Akko Ptolemais"* (1961). *"Aelia"* was published by Universitas in Jerusalem, the others by Schocken, also in Jerusalem. They are all still in print and sell for about \$12 each.

A short survey of *"The Coins of Tiberias"* by Arie Kindler was published by the Tiberias Hot Springs Co. Ltd. as a good-will gesture in 1961. It is an inexpensive (about \$2.50) paperback and does not attempt to present a complete description of all the coin-types, dates of issue, variations, etc. The coins discussed range from issues of Herod Antipas (4 BC-39 AD) to Fatimid Caliph Abu Ali al-Mansur al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah (996-1005 AD).

"The History of Coins and Symbols in Ancient Israel" (Exposition Press, N. Y. 1958) by Wolf Wirgin and Siegfried Mandel presents a new and radical approach to the attribution of a large proportion of Jewish coins.

This book produced an instant and almost violent reaction from the world of Jewish numismatics. The Israel Numismatic Society responded en masse with a point by point put-down of the Wirgin-Mandel theories in *"The Dating and Meaning of Ancient Jewish*
Continued on page 39

Some More Greetings

...from Israel


משרד החינוך והתרבות
600
Jerusalem, 4th March 1968.

Dear Mr. President,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of February 13, 1968, in which you so kindly informed me of the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

I wish you success in your efforts to strengthen the bonds of international understanding.

Yours sincerely,
Ezra L. L.
Ezra L. L.
Speaker of the Knesset

Mr. Morris Brum
President
American Israel Numismatic Association
Church Street Station
New York
N.Y. 10008

HM/XT


DEPUTY MINISTER
OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
Jerusalem, 20 March 1968
מ.ר. 104172

Mr. Morris Brum
President the American-Israel
Numismatic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N.Y. 10008

Dear Mr. Brum,

I would like to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of February 13th and I was glad to hear about the founding of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

I promise that you received already the Minister's answer to your letter to him and I do hope that the you in your efforts to strengthen the bonds of international understanding.

Sincerely,
Sharon Yadin
Sharon Yadin


MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE
STATE OF ISRAEL
Jerusalem 1 March 1968

Mr. Morris Brum
President
American Israel Numismatic Association Inc
P.O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York NY 10008
USA

Dear Mr Brum

I am in receipt of your letter dated 13 February 1968 and highly appreciate your efforts to further the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of America and Israel.

We indeed agree with you that ancient and modern coinage may become an important means by which cultural and educational values can be transferred and disseminated throughout the world.

May I wish you much success in your endeavours and hope that your efforts will indeed be rewarded by increased harmony between our peoples.

Yours sincerely
Shimon Peres
Shimon Peres
Minister of Social Welfare


MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
משרד החוץ
מ.ר. 104172
24 April 1968

Dear Mr. Brum:

I take it as a special privilege to be invited to your Association's educational forum next Sunday, in New York.

On that day, I fly to London on a long-deferred vacation, and I am afraid that I shall not be able, in the circumstances, to be with you on what I am confident will be a most important and instructive occasion.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the first issue of Shetel. I wish the Association the best of luck and success in its very special public relations contribution to the good of Israel.

Yours sincerely,
Max Hurook
Max Hurook

Mr. Morris Brum,
President,
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SCARCITIES AND SLEEPERS *Continued from page 11*

ones will not come down so the under-priced ones must go up!

Date	Commemorative	Proof-Mintage	Market-Value
1959	EXILE	5,000	\$48.50
1960	HERZL	5,000	48.50
1961	BAR-MITZVAH	5,000	72.50
1962	NEGEV	5,050	48.50
1963	SEAFARING	4,500	190.00
1964	MUSEUM	4,500	62.50??

For this analysis, the other com-

memoratives with higher mintages are not listed. From this chart it looks as if the best five-pound to invest in must be the 1964-Museum, for if the Seafaring with the same mintage can command a price of \$190.00 should the Museum sell for one-third the price?

The basis for this entire analysis of "scarcities and sleepers" has been compiled from my recent trip to Israel and from hundreds of listings on Israeli coins from dealers all over the world.

First Anniversary of the Victory coin



The newspapers call it the Six-Day War. By rights, it should be called the Twenty Years' War. For the hostilities that rocked the Middle East between 5 and 10 June, really broke out almost two decades ago. It was a war waged largely by one side, the Arab States, and it was perhaps not full-scale. But it was a war to the bitter end, declared by the Arab leaders to be precisely that — though the final blow, the coup de grace, was to be delivered on some day to come, at an hour when the Arab armies would be fully prepared to attack and fully confident of victory. "The prospects are for war with Israel," said President Nasser of Egypt on 22 February 1964. "We will choose the time. We will choose the place."

In the interval, the avowed aim of the Arab Governments was to wear Israel down by economic blockade, boycott, diplomatic pressures and ceaseless military harassment.

Economic Warfare

Almost from the moment when Israel gained independence in 1948, Egypt, claiming "belligerent rights", has blocked the Suez Canal and, intermittently, the Gulf of Aqaba — both recognized to be international waterways — to all Israel-bound shipping.

This despite solemn Conventions guaranteeing free passage, and despite injunction after injunction by the UN Security Council, with reference to the Suez Canal in particular, that Egypt abandon its unlawful embargo.

Not content with sealing their own borders against all commercial, social, scientific, cultural and diplomatic contacts with Israel, the Arab States, in a system of far-flung international politico-economic blackmail, sought to inflict their anti-Israel boycott policies on the rest of the world.

Border Harassment

Throughout the nineteen years of Israel's renewed statehood, life and property within its borders have been the hapless targets of interminable raiding from the Arab States by Government-inspired and Army-trained para-military units, that crossed into Israel with guns and dynamite to kill or maim or wreck in wanton havoc and destructiveness, or, in the words of a Radio Cairo broadcast, "to make their life a hell."

The Arab States spared no effort to procure and stockpile the modern weapons and military equipment for an all-out onslaught, and achieve a maximum margin of military superior-





ity over Israel against the day when, sure of an overwhelming strength and certain of triumph, they would in concerted action carry out their master-plan of annihilating the State and wiping out all who dwelt in it.

Birth of an Army

But the people of Israel were in no mind to sit idle, while their neighbours went publicly about their deadly preparations. This Land of Israel was the immemorial heart, the inexhaustible fount, of their faith, their civilization and their nationhood. It was their ethical, intellectual and spiritual birthplace. It was ambit and orbit of their unbroken presence — whatever evanescent conquerors might do, and no matter how often the links of independence might seem briefly to snap — from the days of Patriarch Abraham to the days of Lake Success, a spell of four thousand years.

The people of Israel were resolved, and still are, to lengthen this spell into infinity. And this time they were in a position to do something about it — to stand steadfast and, if need be, give battle, for the simple, elementary right to live — as individuals, as households, as a sovereign nation.

To guard and shield that right, there arose the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) — a citizens' militia built on speed, flexibility, modern weaponry, thorough training and leadership by example, and on dedicated, single-minded selflessness. The IDF was, so to speak, the logical extension of the *Haganah*, a voluntary Jewish defence force organized in Mandatory Palestine to counter Arab guerrilla or mob-violence. Upon the proclamation of Israel's independence in May 1948, *Haganah* became *Tseva Haganah Le-Israel* — the Israel Defence Forces. The new protective Army of Israel had its instant baptism of fire, for the columns of six Arab States invaded Israel from every point of the compass, on the

morrow of its rebirth. Ill-equipped, poorly armed, new to such warfare, encircled by enemies, the Jewish defenders acquitted themselves magnificently, more than making up, in combat gallantry, for a manifest lack of armaments.

The Arab States were constrained to seek and sign Armistice Agreements. But, for them, the explicit pledge written into the Agreements that they were to be but a prelude to lasting peace meant nothing; this, for them, was merely a convenient breathing-space in which to make ready for a "second round" against Israel. Mounting and multiplying provocations and infractions, belligerent beyond any doubt, began to attest their true purpose, their brazen discard of an international undertaking.

Arms From the USSR

But it quickly became apparent, that Arab intent was unchanged. Formidably bellicose statements by Arab leaders were legion. Egypt and Syria embarked on an ambitious program of arms acquisition from the Soviet Union. Between 1955 and 1967, the Arab States succeeded, with the lavish aid of the USSR, in raising the number of tanks in their possession from 350 to 1,800; their half-tracks, from 230 to 1,700; their warplanes, from 65 to 534.

In mid-May 1967, Nasser's design was plain for all the world to see. First, he began a massive building of troops and heavy armour in the Sinai desert, in offensive formation. Within a few days, reinforced by Egyptian troops from the Yemen front and by contingents from several other Arab States, this great composite juggernaut began moving ominously towards the Israel border. Second, on 17 May, he ordered the UN Emergency Force out of Egyptian territory; the Secretary-General complied instantly.

Third, in natural consequence, on 23 May, Nasser announced that the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba would thenceforth be barred to Israel shipping, and Radio Cairo gleefully broadcast that Israel now faced the choice between death by strangulation and death from the Arab guns closing in on it remorselessly. True to his promise of 1964, Nasser had, indeed, chosen the time — and the place.

On 30 May, Hussein, King of Jordan, signed a military pact with Nasser, placing the Jordanian forces under Egyptian command; and on 4 June, Iraq joined that unholy alliance. On the morning of 5 June, the multilateral assault was launched by Egypt in the south, Jordan in the east and Syria in the north.

... A Dream Realized

Instead, the Israel Defence Forces won an unexampled victory, driving each enemy back, far from the intimidating emplacements that looked too easily down on or across at Israel's troubled border villages. And, in the process, miraculously, it fell to men of

Israel's Central Command, by way of retort to barbarous Jordanian shelling of residential New Jerusalem, to re-enter the Old City. Thus was the eternal Jewish capital made one again, and thus, suddenly, unaccountably, battle-grimed paratroopers found themselves, as if by some strange magic, standing in humble prayerfulness at Jewry's most hallowed site, the Western Wall, to which, contemptuous of the signature it had set to the Armistice Agreement of 1949, the Government of Jordan had, for so long, denied Jewish access.

And, just as suddenly, this senseless war that had been forced upon them by the unreasoning hatred of neighbor-States began to take on a meaning . . . the meaning of a regional hope of coexistence, harmony and communion, of a straight and sure path to peace, progress and prosperity. And of a Jerusalem, single and undivided and indivisible, its Holy Places under reverent and responsible solicitude for their inviolability and for absolute freedom of access and worship in their sanctified ambience. Ed.



Obverse



Reverse

WHAT PRICE VICTORY?

This Remembrance Day medal of the Israel Armed Forces, was presented to the bereaved families of the soldiers who fell on the battlefield so Israel may be Free and Independent. It is not available to collectors. It is a presentation medal only, struck in 1963 by the Division for Commemoration of the Fallen Soldiers of the Department of Manpower. The Bronze medal has a diameter of 66 mm and weighs 120 gms. The Motifs and designs of both surfaces are very similar and yet different. The obverse portrays present day Israel-liberated, whereas the reverse presents captive Judaea in year 3830. All inscriptions are in Hebrew. Ed.

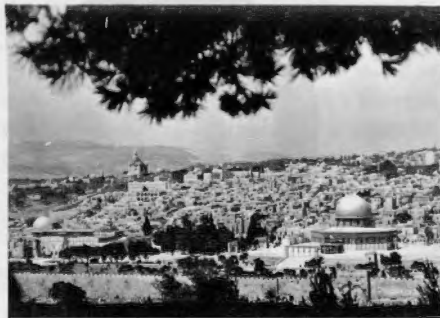
Ἱερουσαλὴμ ἡ Ἁγία "Jerusalem The Holy"

by Ed Janis



The tides of civilizations long gone again washed the land of the Canaanite City of the Jebasites when David conquered the city which was to be the home of the first Temple. It was from here that he collected massive amounts of building materials and considerable treasure for his son Solomon to build the Temple—a task which was prohibited to David. Modern authorities support the dating of Josephus of the commencement of construction in 959 B.C. The completion, some seven years and five months later, is noted (I Kings 6:38) in the eleventh year, in the month of Bal. This coincides with the accepted belief that the Temple was started in the fourth year of David's reign.

The tides of another civilization again washed Jerusalem to rubble in 586 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonia's emperor, as a lesson to the revolting inhabitants of Jerusalem under the new king Zedekiah, destroyed Solomon's Temple and carted off the broken bronze pillars, stands, bowls, vessels and ritual objects to Babylon the same as they had done to the cream of Jerusalem's population eleven years prior in 597 B.C.



About 100 years before this in Lydia, which lay on the western coast of Turkey on the Aegean Sea, a new idea, coinage, was born. Small fixed weights of electrum (a pale alloy of natural gold and silver) lumps were struck with an official symbol which indicated that the government guaranteed their weight and content. Some fifty years later the Lydian king, Croesus, the wealthiest of them all, mistakenly matched his money bags against the powerful Cyrus, King of Persia. In his expansion of the Persian Empire, Cyrus was welcomed by the exiled Jews in Babylon in 538 B.C. and promptly issued a proclamation permitting the Jewish exiles to return to Israel. When the half-century captives repatriated, they brought the use of coins back to the "vinedressers and husbandmen" of Jerusalem who were left behind by the Babylonians.

The first mention of coins in the Bible is by the returnees in Ezra 2:68,69 "when they came to the House of the Lord which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God . . . three score and one thousand drams (drakmas)". The tides of moving civilizations again engulfed Jerusalem with the conquest by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. followed by the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt and passed to the Seleucids, on the conclusion of the Fifth Syrian War (198 B.C.). Assimilation into the Hellenistic world was becoming a reality when Antiochus IV Epiphanes plunged Jerusalem into unbelievable atrocities, plundering and the conversion of smaller synagogues to Greek temples. This led to the re-

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Bar Kochba — 2nd Revolt, for
the Freedom of Jerusalem



Modern Jerusalem coin
with facade of the 2nd Temple

volt of the soldiers of Yehudah Macabaeus (166-161 B.C.) and the rise of the Hasmonaeen Dynasty. In a civil war between the Hasmonaeen brothers, Aristobulus II and Tcholiasan Hyrcanus II, the Romans started their long control of Judea in 63 B.C. The



dynasty changed with Herod in 37 B.C. but the Romans were still in control for it was the Roman Senate that appointed him King of Judea. Under Herod the Temple was rebuilt and lavishly refurbished. At his death his kingdom was divided and Judea assumed the status of a Roman province, governed by procurators, with Caesarea Maritima as its first capital. Herod's grandson, Agrippa I, first honored by the Romans who removed the procurator status, became nationalistic in his old age and met a sudden mysterious death. At his death a large part of Palestine was annexed to Syria and Judea was again a Roman province under procurator rule. Six years later his son Agrippa II, educated in Rome, started his 50 year rule, the last of the Herodian Dynasty — one in which he survived the whims and fancies of eight Roman emperors. Pro-Roman throughout the Jewish War 66-70 A.D., the Roman Senate allowed him to remain as a "vassal ruler".

With the coinage of the Jewish Roman War (66-70 A.D.) we find a change in symbols and legends to a specific Jewish character. Yerushalem K'Dosha — "Jerusalem is Holy" on the Year 1 Shekel (66-67); Yerusalayem Hak'Dosha — "Jerusalem the Holy" on the Year 2 Shekel (67-68). On the bronzes of Year 2 and 3 we see Cheruth Zion

— "Liberty of Zion" and Ligulath Zion "Deliverance of Zion" on the bronzes of the Year 4 (69-70). The legends were coupled with religious objects — Omer Cup, pomegranates, ethrog and lulav, temple jugs, etc. There can be no other conclusion from the coinage that the Freedom of Jerusalem was the Freedom of Religion. Jerusalem means "City of Peace" in Hebrew. With the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D., the overwhelming hordes of Roman legions pressed on and defeated the last remnants of the fighters of Masada.

The people refused to accept the loss of Jerusalem and the Temple, and in 132 A.D. rebellion under the leadership of Bar Kochba broke out. The insurgents overstruck Roman tetradrams and denarii. The larger silver pieces had the legend Yerushalem "Jerusalem" around a four column facade of a temple showing the inner "Holy of Holies". The reverse shows ethrog and lulav. The rebellion was over in 135 A.D.; Jerusalem was reduced to rubble, and the revolt ended by the slaughter of almost the entire Jewish population. On the ruins, Hadrian built a new Roman City which he called Aelia Capitolina and Jews were forbidden to enter the site of their forever Holy City — a deprivation that lasted to modern times.

Again the tides of new civilizations washed the Rock of Jerusalem. The Byzantine Emperors (4th Century) replaced the Romans. The Persians ended the Byzantine age in 641 A.D. Shortly after in 638 A.D. the Caliph Omar occupied Jerusalem. Jewish soil became Moslem and remained so until the tides of the Crusaders entered Jerusalem in July 1099 and changed



the mosque to a Christian church. Under Saladin in 1187 Jerusalem again returned to the Moslems only to fall to the Turks in 1517. During World War II, the British captured Palestine and established the Mandate in 1920 until the establishment of the State of Israel on May 15, 1948. However, Jerusalem was not free. Jerusalem, the Holy City of all three monotheistic faiths; Yerushalayim—"City of Peace" was not peaceful. "Next year in Jerusalem . . ." was only a myth with the artificial arbitrary demarcation lines set by the United Nations. Jew, Christian and Arab alike found visitations to holy places restricted by pettiness, blockade and animosity. How appropriate was the Jerusalem coin-medal of 1966 with the replica of the Bar-Kochba coin of Jerusalem. How appropriate was the Jerusalem coin-medal of

Independence Day, commemorative of 1968.

Here again appears the Bar-Kochba dream of a rebuilt temple with its four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold and within the entrance the ark and the mercy seat, all as specified by the Lord to Moses (Exodus 26:32, 34). The tides of time completed their cycle with the unification of Jerusalem by Israel last June. Moslem, Christian and Jew now move freely and with dignity to all the holy places of all faiths and there is freedom of worship for all. Jerusalem's reunification is brotherhood in action. May the latest tide of purification be the last tide for Jerusalem.



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The Mint of King Herod The Great?

by Yaakov Meshorer



Recently two soft limestone tablets were uncovered in excavations in Samaria*, once a Roman colony where coins were minted. Their specifications follow:

Tablet No. 1

thickness:29 mm (1.14 in)
width:160 mm (6.30 in)
maximum length:154 mm (6.08 in)
minimum length:60 mm (2.36 in)
diameter of moulds:14 mm (0.55 in)

Unfortunately, it is impossible to establish the exact length or width of this tablet. It was found broken on both sides and what is left are five rows of moulds for minting coins. One of the rows, close to the broken edge is obviously incomplete. This item seems to be the end part of the entire mould form. The first row, broken lengthwise consists of 6 half moulds. The second row consists of 9 full moulds. The third row consists of 7 full moulds and over half of the 8th. The fourth row consists of 5 full moulds and one-fourth of the 6th. The fifth row consists of 4 complete moulds and a partial fifth one.

Tablet No. 2

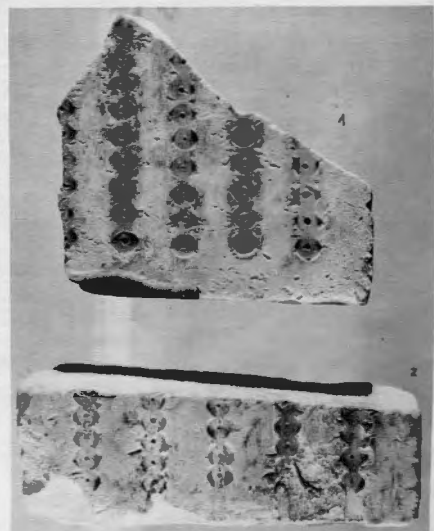
thickness:39 mm (1.54 in)
width:206 mm (8.11 in)
maximum length:78 mm (3.07 in)
minimum length:60 mm (2.36 in)
diameter of moulds:13 mm (0.51 in)

This tablet, wider than Tablet No. 1 is also incomplete, broken on both sides. However, this one is a section of the upper part of the entire mould form. One can clearly note the canals carved in the stone forming openings at the top of each row of moulds. Six

rows of moulds can be seen in this tablet. The first row is broken lengthwise. The last three rows consist of 4 moulds each; the remaining two rows consist of 5 moulds each.

The two stone tablets, basic to the minting of coins, were uncovered while cleaning floors of structures close to the Samaria city gate, on its southeast side. Most of the ceramic material unearthed at the same layer was found to date from the first century B.C. and the first century A.D. (The proximity of the finding to the city gate reaffirms the assumption that these stone tablets were found close to their original location, since in ancient times the city gate area served as the financial center.)

This type of a mould form was covered and tightened by another of the exact size which had a smooth form. The liquid bronze was poured in



*Samaria is located 35 miles north of Jerusalem in the central part of Israel.

through the inlets and canals at the top. Once the metal solidified, the newly minted coins would be taken out in bands attached one to another. Each coin was marked by a slight hump in its center. This was due to the dent formed by the drill's tip when drilling the moulds. The slight hump disappeared, however, during the stamping process which followed. In some cases traces of the hump can be spotted. In remote cases, coins were found attached to one another, or to the metal bar formed in the canal at the top of the mould form.*

What type of coins were minted in these mould forms? We do not know of coin minting in Samaria, when that region was a Roman colony named — Sabastia. We are aware of City of Sabastia coins dating from the first century A.D. to the middle of the first part of the third century A.D. However, the coins of the Roman Sabastia are large and thick and therefore do not match the dimensions of these newly found moulds.

What coins, then, can be considered in this case? Actually, there is only one alternative, as far as the technical and the historical aspects of this problem are concerned. Namely, that these mould forms were used in minting coins of King Herod the Great.

We do know that King Herod built and fortified Samaria, turning it into a leading city, important enough to station his army garrisons in its vicinity. King Herod constructed in Samaria many luxurious palaces as well as public buildings and possibly moved his financial center there. To date it has not been established exactly where King Herod minted his coins. It has been generally assumed, however, that these were minted in Jerusalem. No numismatic or archeological proof to support this assumption

tion is available.

It should, therefore, be of no surprise if it were established that King Herod's coins, or at least some of them, were minted in Samaria. Moreover, most of the Herodian coins uncovered by archaeologists excavating in Israel, were found in Samaria.

The diameter of the small Herodian coins (pennies) were between 14 mm and 13 mm**. The coin design of the Herodian pennies fits perfectly into the moulds in either Tablet No. 1 or No. 2. Moreover, the thickness of these coins corresponds exactly with the depth of the moulds. Indeed, after minting the coins, the proportions may change too. The coins are usually thinner than the original pennies, while their diameter is increased due to the pressure exerted during the stamping process.

Some of the Herodian pennies are of diameters ranging from less than 13 mm to more than 16 mm, all due to changes formed following the stamping process.

We may sum up the above by stating that although no further mint accessories were found at the location (as tools or dies; perhaps since most of the area has not yet been excavated) we assume that a mint was in operation in that location during the Herodian period where the famous Herodian bronze coins were minted.

***ibid. see coins No. 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53A. 53C*

A REQUEST TO OUR READERS:

We would appreciate your notifying us of a change of address. Please address correspondence to:

AINA
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N. Y. 10008

*Meshorer, Yaakov: *Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period*, Tel Aviv, 1967, see coin No. 231A. p. 173 and plate XXX.

MENE, MENE . . .

Continued from page 12

that a student can readily understand such information as this: the Talmudical *p'rutah* was a small coin, only 1/192 of a *denar*, which in itself was about 55 grains of silver. (Note: $192 = 16 \times 12$.) One can also discover that the word *p'rutoth* probably meant "small change"; that 8 *p'rutoth* are one *issar*, and *issar* is the Latin "as"; and that 38.4 *p'rutoth* are one *espar*, which is the Greek "asproi." This mixture of decimal and duo-decimal systems, of Babylonian, Greek and Roman systems, serves to make the study of Jewish coins a provocative challenge to the numismatist.

It is interesting to note that the end of Belshazar's kingdom was foretold by the writing hand inscribing the immortal words, "Mene, mene, tekel,

upharsin." Daniel interpreted them to mean (Daniel 5:26), "Mene, God hath numbered thy kingdom and brought it to an end. Tekel, thou are weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Peres (Pharas), thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." The word *mene*, to number, is from the same root as *maneh*, or *mina*, the Biblical coin worth 50 *shekels*. *Tekel*, to weigh, is from the same root as *shekel*. You will note Daniel's pun, since *peres*, to divide is taken to mean dividing the kingdom between Media and Persia (*P'ras*).

One good pun deserves another. Let us hope that *mene mene, tekel, upharsin* the study of Jewish coins, such as the *maneh* and *shekel* will lead us to the proper interpretation (*perush*) of the Jewish past.

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CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

Club News

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

The formation of the Israel Numismatic Society of Northern California was announced at the opening of the special Israel Government coins and medals exhibit at the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum at Berkeley, here on June 16th. The event was marked by a special address by the Consul General of Israel, Gideon Saguy.

The new Society is affiliated with the newly formed American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA). The affiliation was announced at the forum by Mr. Morris Bram, President of AINA.

Opening ceremonies on June 16th, included the showing of a special film on Israel numismatic themes.

The exhibit will remain at the Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, through the end of July, and can be visited between the hours of 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday through Friday.

Special guest of honor was Mr. Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner of the Government of Israel.

This is the newest link in the chain of Clubs that are affiliated with AINA.

*Seymour Fromer, Director
Judah L. Magnes Museum*

FROM HAIFA

I was very glad to have the opportunity of reading this interesting first issue, and those of our members in Haifa to whom I have shown it have expressed their interest in it. I am

sure that the way is now being paved for an exchange of ideas and knowledge in the field of numismatics, which is of interest to members of our groups, on both sides of the Ocean.

Here in the Haifa Branch of the Israel Numismatic Society, we have the following sections or fields of interest:

(i) Classic Numismatics (Jewish, Greek and Roman)

(ii) Crusader Period

(iii) Modern Numismatics

Each of these sections has its own coordinator; we would be very pleased to establish contacts and start an exchange of views and information with any of your Members whose fields of interest are the same as ours.

In the near future we shall be publishing a number of papers and of course will send you copies of them.

Once more, allow me to wish you every success in the publication of THE SHEKEL and to close by expressing the hope that a period of fruitful cooperation between our two societies is now about to begin.

*N. Shahaf, Chairman
The Israel Numismatic Society—Haifa*

FROM NEW YORK

Our March meeting was preceded by a dinner served by the hotel where our meetings are held. It was most successful in that it helped the members to get to know each other better and the good feeling that was generated can help the society in many ways. The members thought so much of the dinner that it was decided to hold such a dinner twice during the

year. Some even suggested that we have three such meals annually.

The regular meeting started when the dinner was concluded and due to the good feeling generated, the meeting was interesting and lively. It was decided to expand the study of Israel numismatics to include all coins that were circulated in the area at any time, including not only ancient times, but the period of Turkish control and the subsequent periods of the British Protectorate and Mandate. In line with this innovation, a question and answer period was instituted, at which time any member having a question concerning numismatics of the area could present the question for answer. If no answer could be given immediately, the subject matter of the question would be researched and the solution given at the next succeeding meeting. In this way, the society can be of great value to those desiring information on any Israel numismatic subject.

To carry out further our desire to add to the knowledge of our members, a period during each meeting will be devoted to the history that caused a medal or coin to be minted by Israel. In this way the coins and medals will have special meaning for us.

Nathan Sobel, the Editor-in-Chief of *THE SHEKEL*, the official Journal of the American Israel Numismatic Association, who is also a member of our society, was congratulated for the first issue of *THE SHEKEL*. Many thought that it was the finest numismatic journal they had ever seen.

We lost the services of our Vice-President, Ed Schuman, who moved to Florida and Nathan R. Goldman, Esq. was selected in his place to finish the balance of the term. Ed was a most sincere worker and his absence will be felt by all of us, but we wish him well in his new home.

Max Vlotkoffsky, Sec.
I.N.S. of New York

FROM SACRAMENTO



Photo taken by Phil Levy

Officers of the Israel Numismatic Society of Sacramento: (Left to right) Mervin Fahn, Vice-President; Esther Wacks, Secretary; Mike Grossman, Public Relations; Mel Wacks, President, Harry Leafe, Treasurer.

The first two meetings of the recently organized Sacramento Israeli Numismatic Society (SINS) resulted in an overwhelming turnout of enthusiasts. People from Sacramento, Davis and the surrounding area attended.

Officers elected were Melvin Wacks, President; Mervin Fahn, Vice-President; Esther Wacks, Secretary; Harry Leafe, Treasurer; and Mike Grossman, Public Relations. Mr. Melvin Wacks is the Numismatic Consultant for the internationally famous Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum in Berkeley as well as a board director of AINA (American Israel Numismatic Association).

On May 15, 1968, a seminar on ancient Israeli coins was held and on June 9th, a field trip to the Judah L. Magnes Museum took place.

Esther Wacks, Secretary
Sacramento I.N.S.

FROM GREATER MIAMI

In January, 1967, the Annual Florida United Numismatists Convention was held at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. A highlight of the Convention was the Israel Government official reception. During the

reception, the award winning films "Israel Adventure Through Time" and "Within The Circle" were shown.

After the showing of these films, it was announced that an Israel Coin Club will be organized in the Miami area in the near future.

On April 11, 1967, a group of people who were interested in organizing an Israel Coin Club held a get-together. It was sponsored by Messrs. B. J. Rubenstein and Dr. Edward Majilton. The meeting place was donated by the North Miami Beach Coin Club. This meeting resulted in the formation of "Israel Coin Club of South Florida". Officers and Directors were elected.

The purpose of this club is to encourage and promote interest in Israel's coins, paper money, and medals; to cultivate friendly relations among collectors, and to especially encourage and assist new and old collectors.

The club meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Flagler Savings and Loan Bank, North East 81 Street and Biscayne Boulevard, in the Biscayne Shopping Plaza, at 8 P.M. New members and visitors are welcome. An auction is held at every meeting.

The creed which was put together by B. J. Rubenstein, reads as follows:

"The purpose of this Israel Coin Club will be to advance the member's knowledge of Israel's coins, the paper money and crowns by providing materials and opportunities to learn about coin-collecting; by speaking before the club; by seeing exhibits of coins; by selling, trading, auctioning and buying from each other; by fostering sociability and promoting the general welfare and good fellowship among its members."

The present officers for 1968 are: B. J. Rubenstein — President; Dr. Oscar L. Winkelstein — First Vice President; Charles Fine — 2nd Vice Presi-

dent; Jack Diamond — Treasurer; Mrs. Lynn Silverblatt — Secretary.

Board of Directors: George Trager, Irv Rosen, Leon Greene.

Anyone interested in becoming a member, or would like any information about the club, may write to: B. J. Rubenstein Ph.G., c/o The President Apts., 2505 South Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Fla. 33480.

*Submitted by: B. J. Rubenstein, Pres.
Israel Coin Club of South Florida*

FROM LOS ANGELES

At the March 31st meeting, the Club was fortunate in having two eminent numismatists as speakers. John Miles Baker gave an account of his travels in Africa, Israel, Greece and other parts of Europe and Maurice Gould a rendition concerning the trials and tribulations of Leo Kadman and other dignitaries in forming the Israel Numismatic Society of former years.

The highlight of the April 28th meeting was the talk by the lovable and vivacious Sylvia Haffner, author of the textbook, "The History of Modern Israel's Money", and Exhibit Chairman for the coming A.I.N.A. show in August. Sylvia gave her impression and description of the Holy Land and its people. Added to her exquisite word pictures — viewed through the eyes of an experienced traveler — she gave us informative tips on the now scarce issues of Israel money. Many coins, she told us, have disappeared entirely from Israel and are apparently all scattered abroad. Practically overnight, she reported, many of the items in personal collections here are extreme rarities. It was our pleasure to have Bill Wissland, Editor of N.A.S.C., with us at this meeting.

Bob Berman, Program Chairman, conducted the bi-monthly educational program at the May 26th meeting. The members also learned that thanks to

Bank of Israel Announcement

The Bank of Israel has recently released a report stating the melting down of certain leftover 5 pound coins. Following is a table of the coins affected and the new mintage figures.

Year	Commemorative	Condition	Original Mintage	Melted Down	Net Mintage
1958	Menora 10th Anniversary	UNC.	100,000	1,949	98,051
1959	Ingathering of Exiles	UNC.	100,099	72,850	27,249
1959	Ingathering of Exiles	PROOF	5,000	208	4,792
1960	Herzl Centenary	UNC.	45,000	10,528	34,472
1960	Herzl Centenary	PROOF	5,000	77	4,923
1961	Bar Mitzvah	UNC.	20,000	459	19,541
1961	Bar Mitzvah	PROOF	5,000	439	4,561
1965	The Knesset	PROOF	7,750	90	7,660

A full description of the whole series of the 5 pound Commemorative Coins, appeared in our first issue of "THE SHEKEL", pp. 42, 43 and back cover.

The report further stated that the Bank of Israel is contemplating melting down a certain quantity of surplus 1 pound Chanukah Coins. The exact quantities will be released after the melt-down.

Furthermore, we received from Mrs. Sylvia Haffner some notes, where she states that recent announcements in national coin magazines and newspapers about a contemplated melt-down of the 1967 10 pound Victory unc. coins, are incorrect. We quote from a statement from the Bank of Israel, — Currency Supply unit . . . " . . . we are most positively not going to melt the 10-pound Victory Coin".

Mrs. Haffner also supplied Mintage figures for the 1967 Victory Coins, she just received from Jerusalem.

Denomination	Cond.	Mint	No. Minted
10 pound	PROOF	S. Kretchmer & Sons, Jerusalem	50,499
10 pound	UNC.	Federal Mint, Berne, Switz.	234,589
100 pound	GOLD	Federal Mint, Berne, Switz.	9,004
	PROOF		

Ed.

Esther Taller the Club won two First Prizes at the California State Numismatics Show in San Francisco on May 2nd to 5th. One prize was won for coin-medals and the other was awarded by the California Exonumist Society. We congratulate Esther for her untiring efforts and dedication to Israel Numismatics.

At the June meeting, members will

consider a change in the By-laws to lower the entrance age for Junior members from 15 to 13.

We are also happy to announce that our club joined the American Israel Numismatic Association (A.I.N.A.).

*Evelyn Sadler,
Corresponding Secretary
Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles*

4 Variations of The New 1 Lira Coin

by R. G. Sidener

Israel's latest 1 Lira has been in circulation for only a short time. Yet, I have already located 4 varieties, with the help of my sister, who resides in Givatayim, Israel.

No. 1 The numeral "1" points to the left part of a smooth section of the rim.

No. 2 The numeral "1" points to the left part of the reeded section of the rim.

No. 3 The numeral "1" points to the center of a smooth section of the rim. This is the most common 1967 variety.

No. 4 The numeral "1" points to the center of a reeded section of the rim. This variation is rare in the 1967 lira, but common in the 1968.

It is too early to tell how many coins of variation 1 and 2 were struck, but it would be of interest to find out the mintage figures from the Bank of Israel. It is quite conceivable that an infinite number of varieties exist, since the reeding of the rims was probably not intended to be in any specific position.



Obverse



Reverse

The overall size is the same as the 2 mils, and the center piece is the same design and size of the 1 mil. The obverse has

Coin or Medal?

Is this the 60th Palestine Mandate Coin hitherto unknown, or is it just a privately struck medal?

There are a total of 59 known Palestine Mandate Coins, although there is speculation, that others exist.

Mr. Sam Shatz, from Brooklyn, a member of A.I.N.A., has recently purchased this specimen, and brought it to our attention.

Since then, we have been informed of the existence of 3 additional specimens.

Any reader who may have information pertaining to this strange specimen, please inform us, so that we can enlighten our readers about it. Ed.

the inscription "HISTORICAL HOLYLAND 'COIN'" in English, the reverse, has the same in Arabic. Photo by E. Janis

The **ALEPH BETH** Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis

Thanks for the 146 requests for information received since the initial column. Approximately 80% fell into a pattern of a dozen questions that we will endeavor to answer.

Q.—*May I order prior medals, commemorative and trade coins from AINA? Mrs. E. H. B., Chicago.*

A.—No. AINA is not a dealer. An inquiry to the Government of Israel — Office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner, 850 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022 will bring a listing of medals and coins that are for sale at the time of inquiry.

Q.—*Are there any books or holders made to house Israel coins and medals? — R. B., Chicago and others.*

A.—The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation (address above) sells a holder with nine inserts for the coin-medal series. You may order more than one insert if you desire to collect both the silver and the bronze sets. We recently saw an interesting coin folder called Israel Agorot-Pound Series I, 1960-1968. It contains 3 pages to insert the series plus major varieties. Front inside covers have factual coin information as to sizes, weights, diameter and edges. The rear inside cover shows mintage figures. Known as the R. P. Nielson No. I-100 holder — it is available at most coin dealers.

Q.—*Tell me what coins to buy? — R. F., Miami; D. B., Philadelphia and others.*

A.—We can no sooner tell you what clothes to wear, food to eat or

music to listen to. We can, however, point you in the right direction. Coin Collecting, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Your first investment should be in a good reference book like Haffner or Bertram. Look at dealer displays, coin exhibits, etc. Pick out a series in paper, coins or medals that you like and concentrate on that. Acquire quality not quantity. Discrimination will come with knowledge.

Q.—*When I was in Israel two years ago I saw a gold piece marked 10th Anniversary Bank of Israel. I don't see it here and should have bought it when I was there. E. S., St. Petersburg, Fla.*

A.—Be glad that you did not. The possession of gold coins and medals of Israel are illegal to American citizens with the exception of the 1960 Herzl 20 pound gold coin. Clearance and special import licenses are granted by the Office of Domestic Gold and Silver Operations of the Treasury Department of the United States. AINA believes that the Weizmann set and the Bank of Israel Coins are "gold coins of exceptional numismatic value" and as such should be granted an import license. However, until these coins are cleared by the ODGSO, U.S. residents should refrain from the acquisition of these illegal gold coins.

Q.—*My Temple wishes to have a quantity of Canada-Israel Friendship Medals for presentation pieces for Bar Mitzvah celebrants.*

Where can we place an order?
SHW, Vancouver, B.C.

A.—Contact Bank of Montreal, 119 St. Jacques, Montreal—Attention of Mr. C. G. Smith.

Q.—Have been trying to get one 10 Pruta for each of the years that I saw listed for the minting—all years from 1949-1960, except 1956. I only found the 1949, 1952, and 1957 coins. Are they that rare?
RBL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

A.—Not rare—nonexistent. The Pruta series coins are not dated in the actual year that they were struck, but in the year a physical change in the coin took place. In the case of the 10 Pruta that you mentioned, the 1949 date was used from 1949 to and including part of 1952 when the round bronze coin with the amphora was changed to an aluminum one with a scalloped edge and a jug. In 1957 the edge became round again

and value corrected from 10 Pruta to 10 Prutot. This and the copper anodized pieces were struck until 1960 even though the date remained 1957.

Research Corner

Charles Colbert, Associate Professor of Engineering at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387, seeks information or temporary loan of any articles, photographs, catalogues or books concerning First Revolt shekels and half-shekels and on ancient or modern counterfeits. Since 1966 he has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East and Europe on grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. He has to date catalogued 1500 entries and requests readers interested in aiding the project to contact him so that more pieces may be photographed, weighed, tallied, and classified.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO A.I.N.A. MEMBERS

Not many dealers specialize and deal exclusively in the coins and currency of Israel. But when one does, his customers find that they receive immediate attention to both their orders and their questions.

While we maintain a large stock of the commemoratives and currency of Israel (which we list in our free price list—yours for the asking), we claim to be especially knowledgeable in the area of Israel's trade coinage. In fact, we helped to design the three-page bookshelf album which houses the agorot-pound issues from 1960 to date. We also offer a free Market Newsletter four times a year to keep our customers up-to-date on rapidly moving issues in Israeli numismatics.

Contact us the next time you require information . . . or that B.U. gem to fill out your collection. The former will be free—the latter will be a bargain!

ROBERT A. SANBORN, A.I.N.A., 201-447-0293 (evenings)
Box 105 / Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481

Trade Coins ■ Commemoratives ■ Banknotes ■ Palestine Mandate

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

Continued from page 18

Coins and Symbols" (Schocken, Jerusalem 1958).

The Wirgin work is very well illustrated which the INS publication is not. The former sells for \$7.50, the rebuttal about \$3. Both are well worth your time and make an Agatha Christie mystery seem tame by comparison. After all the case is always solved at the end of a novel but the questions in Jewish numismatics may never disappear.

Many of the representations found on the coins are analyzed in Paul Romanoff's "*Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins*" published in 1944 by The Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning in Philadelphia. This long out-of-print work is sometimes available at about \$8.

Romanoff only covered what he considered purely Jewish symbols such as the palm tree, lulab, ethrog, chalice, lily, pomegranate, Temple at Jerusalem, etc. He excluded Greek and Roman influenced designs. Many excerpts from the Old Testament and other Jewish writings were included to back up his conclusions.

Other Sources

Besides the books up-to-date information can be obtained from journals such as this one and those published by the Israel Numismatic Society (Israel) and the International Israel Numismatic Society (U.S.).

There is one more source of data which cannot be found in the previously mentioned works — auction catalogs and realized price lists. Pertinent historical and scarcity information often accompanies the coins' physical condition. And of course, the prices achieved indicate the latest valuations.

Many auctions contain a few ancient Judaeon coins and occasionally a collection featuring Jewish material is

offered. Two such specialized catalogs are those of the 3 April 1963 sale of Adolph Hess (Lucerne) in association with Leu and Company's Bank (Zurich) and the 20 October 1966 auction held by Munzen and Medaillen (Basel).

The Hess-Bank Leu sale consisted of 121 lots of coins of the First Revolt, Judaea Capta and the Second Revolt. Munzen and Medaillen included over 300 Judaeon lots plus many interesting related items. The coins of the Palestinian cities under Roman domination were featured in this offering.

There is a fascinating story behind the dramatic, wholesale withdrawal of Judaeon coins from the Munzen and Medaillen sale by the owner — the Bezalel Museum, the National Museum of Israel, only a few days before the auction took place.*

These auction catalogs sell for a few dollars each when available.

Table I summarizes the contents of the major references which I have discussed.

Using A Catalog

In order to attribute a coin, first, the period of issue must be ascertained. Is it Maccabean, Herodian, First Revolt, or what? Once you have even a vague familiarity with the various Jewish issues, and with one of the aforementioned books at hand you should easily be able to identify the period of issue of the coins, even if they are well worn. The further identification of the issuing authority will take you deeply into the mysterious realm of reading Greek, Latin and ancient Hebrew inscriptions. But don't get scared — it won't be long before you recognize BACILEOS (King) and (Israel) as easy as you now identify CAT.

In order to find precisely the correct catalog number (i.e. Reifenberg or

Continued on page 40

*I. Tira, "Numismatic Tumult", *Journal of Israel Numismatics*, Vol. 1 No. 6, Dec. 1966-Jan. 1967, pp. 180-182.

BMC) you will have to read the coin's inscription because many coins are quite similar in design with major or minor differences in the inscriptions. Also, you might discover an inscription or variety thereof that is unlisted in any catalog, thus making a valuable contribution to the field of ancient Jewish numismatics.

Table II contains the ancient Hebrew and equivalent modern Hebrew letter-forms. The most frequently used variations are included for the ancient Hebrew letters.

In addition to the different letter forms, engraving styles and errors add varieties to the proper inscriptions. There exist missing letters, extra letters, letters in the wrong order and backwards (mirror-imaged) letters or entire inscriptions.

I am sure that you already know, but as a reminder—Hebrew is read from right to left, Greek and Latin left to right.

Now it is up to you to take the step from a collector to a numismatist.

TABLE II. Modern — Ancient Hebrew Letter Forms

Ancient Hebrew — Coin Form

Name	"Modern" Hebrew	Maccabee	First Revolt	Second Revolt
Alef	א	פ	פ כ	פ כ
Bet	ב	ג ג	ג ג ג	ג
Vet	ו			
Gimmel	ג	ה ה ה	ה	ה
Dalet	ד	ה ה ה	ה	
Hay	ה	ה ה	ה	ה
Vav	ו	ו ו ו ו ו	ו ו	ו ו ו ו ו
Zayin	ז			ז ז
CHet	ח	ח ח	ח	ח ח
Tet	ט			
Yod	י	י י י	י י	י י
Kaf	כ	כ כ כ		כ כ כ
CHaf	ך, כ			
Lamed	ל	ל	ל	ל
Mem	מ, מ	מ מ	מ	מ
Nune	נ, נ	נ י ל כ	נ	נ י ל
Samech	ס			
Ayin	ע		ו ו	ו
Pay	פ			
Fay	ף, פ			
TSadee	צ, צ		ט ט	
Kof	ק		ק ק	
Raysh	ר	ר ר ר	ר ר	ר ר
SHeen	ש	ו	ו ו	ו ו
Seen	ש			
Tav	ת	ת ת	ת	ת ת

Note: CH is pronounced as in CHanukah.

Drawn by Nat Sobel

LANDMARKS OF ISRAEL

Fly
there
via...



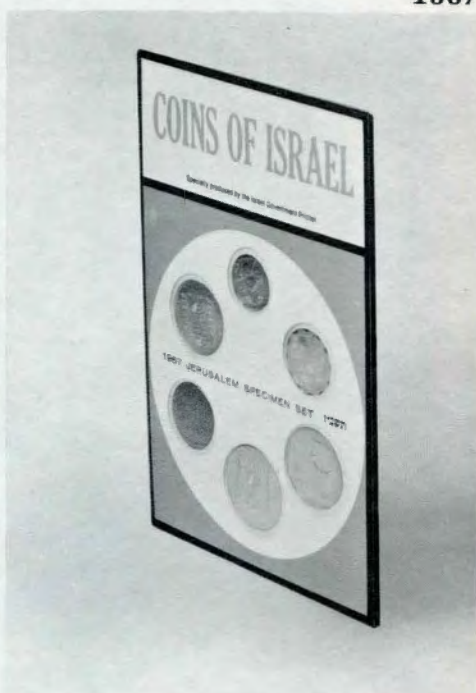
New York • Boston • Chicago • Cleveland • Detroit • Houston • Los Angeles • Miami
Montreal • Philadelphia • San Francisco • St. Louis • Toronto • Washington, D. C.

PARADE of ISRAEL SPECIMEN SETS

1967



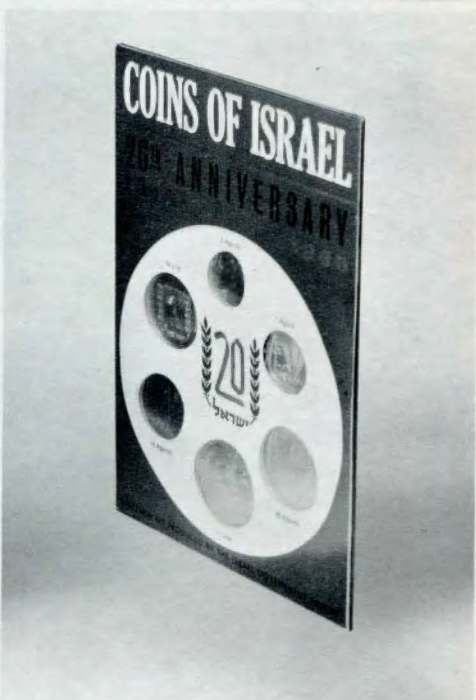
1963



1965



1966



For details see page 14

1968